

*In Loving Memory
of
Mrs. Thelma Ousborn*



*From Labor
March 4, 1926*

*To Reward
September 26, 2009*

Services Held

Monday, October 5, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church

684 Juliga Woods Street

Richmond, California 94804

*Reverend Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine, Pastor
Officiating*

Celebration Service

Processional.....“Somebody Prayed For Me”.....Clergy and Family

*Musical Selection.....I Woke Up This Morning With My Mind Stayed on Jesus”.....Bethlehem Choir
Led by Minister Cynthia Harris*

Scripture Reading

Old Testament ScriptureReverend Ray Spearman

New Testament ScriptureReverend Kenneth Clark

PrayerReverend Willie Cooper

*Musical Selection“I Need Jesus To Guide Me”.....Bethlehem Choir
Led By Brother Jimmy Stuart*

Acknowledgement of CondolencesDomonique Ousbourn

ResolutionsPatricia Lewis

Expressions

Progressive Baptist Missionary Educational District Association

Women's Auxiliary.....Betty Johnson, First Vice-President

*Bethlehem Church FamilyMary Smith
Deacon J. C. Fuller*

FriendRuth Marshall

FamilyCarla Powell

ClergyReverend Samuel VanHook

SoloDenise Ousbourn

Special ReflectionsThe Next Generation

Reflection of Life(Read Silently)

Solo“Walk Around Heaven”.....Minister Cynthia Harris

Eulogy.....Reverend Dr Alvin C. Bernstine

Parting View

Recessional



Herman Thelma
Vern Mary



Vern

Mother



Nancy Ray
Jasmine Grammy



Leonard Kerry

Jorden Ray



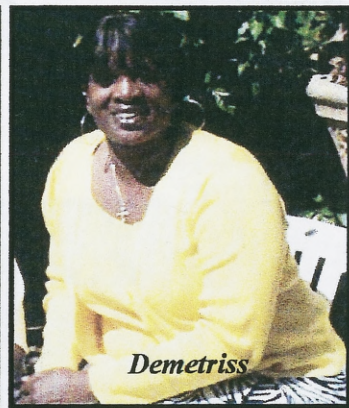
Francine
Granny



Thelma Carla PaPa Joe



The Ousborn Family



Demetriss



Mary Thelma Nancy Herman



Thelma

Travelee



William & Mary



Vern



Gloria

Tiffany



Greg & Nancy



Denise, Jamare, & Jasmine



Ray

YoYo & Francine



*Herman, Jr. & Rashad
Gwendolyn & Corry*



Rita





Mom's Dinner Table



Sunday at Church



Celebrating Christmas with her Dad

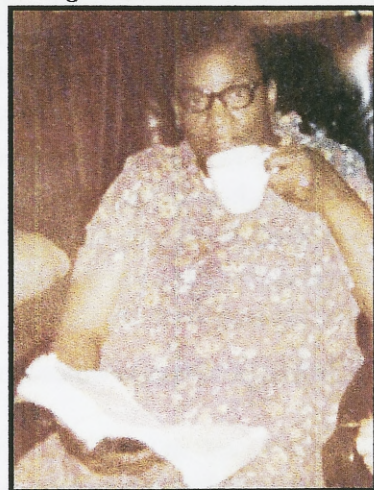


Off to Church



Mother's Day

Celebrating Thanksgiving



Morning Devotion



Preparing Food



Arriving in Hawaii



A Reflection of Her Life

Thelma Ousborn, affectionately known as “Mother Ousborn” or “Granny”, was born in Anding, Mississippi on March 4, 1926. She was the only child of Kelly Berry and Nancy Spiers. Her mother died when she was only four years old. She was raised by her father and step-mother, Ida Mae Berry, and cared for by other relatives including her mother’s sister, Aunt Myrt.



Thelma lived a hard life in the rural back woods of segregated Mississippi. She often shared the story of how she had to walk miles to school with very few school clothes, holes in her socks, and a bucket of syrup, cornbread and fatback for lunch. Also, she shared how she had to get up early to do her chores before picking cotton in the fields.

Thelma Ousborn, a woman of enormous faith, courage, commitment, compassion, and character.

Courage

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Despite her humble beginnings, Thelma never let life cause her bitterness. She never lost hope in God or in having a better future. In 1944, she boarded a train leaving Mississippi headed to Richmond, California to stay with her father’s sister, Aunt Gladys Chambers. It was there that she met and married her husband, Herman Ousborn in 1945. They were married for 61 years before he passed in 2006.

Sometimes life in California was just as hard as it was in Mississippi. Mother Ousborn was no stranger to hard work. Caring for her family of nine children, she held two or three jobs at a time. She’s worked as a housekeeper, a home health care worker, a cannery worker at Hunts and Del Monte canneries, and a laundry worker at the Model Laundry in El Sobrante, CA. One to seldom complain, Mother Ousborn managed her hectic schedule with very few hours of sleep.

In spite of all her family and work obligations, she made time to go to school to improve herself.

Mother Ousborn took some English, Math and Computer classes. She earned her Certificate of Completion as a Home Health Aide from the Department of Public Health in 1967.

Commitment

O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, plentifully rewardeth the proud doer. (Psalm 31:23)

Mother Ousborn was baptized at what she called "Old" Concord Baptist Church in Benton, Mississippi. She joined the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church around 1951, where she remained a faithful member under pastors Reverend Nathaniel Phanor, Reverend A. H. Newman, and current Pastor Reverend Alvin C. Bernstine. Mother Ousborn loved the Lord; He was first in her life.

She was an active and faithful member of her church. She served in various auxiliaries: Sunday School, Baptist Training Union, Women's Missionary Union, Usher Board, Nursing, Choir, and Decoration Committee. She was most remembered for her dedicated service on the Courtesy Committee. Mother Ousborn lovingly prepared whatever food families needed.

Mother Ousborn's work extended beyond her church home. She was also very active in the Progressive Baptist Missionary Educational District Association and California State Baptist Convention where she served on the Devotion Committee for both organizations. You could always find her rendering a soul stirring prayer and praising the Lord.

Compassion

For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. (St. Matthew 25:35-36)

She loved to cook and her house was always open. She could make a meal out of nothing and say "such as it is." And on Sundays, her children and their families along with invited and unexpected guests would come for a Thanksgiving sized spread. There was always "a plenty." People loved Mother Ousborn's scrumptious Turkey, Dressing, Pineapple Coconut cakes and Sweet Potato Pies.

She and Brother Ousborn, known as "Papa Joe," fulfilled their Christian mission by helping others. They fed and housed countless people—especially the "least of these". They would even let people sleep in their garage, or even in an old car in the family driveway.

Character

Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. (Proverbs 31:10)

Even though she loved and served the Lord passionately, Mother Ousborn still found time for fun. She loved life and she loved to have a good time. She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. Mother Ousborn loved to travel. She's traveled across the United States with family and to the State and National Baptist Conventions. She was blessed to travel to Hawaii and to the Holy Land with her "sister friend" and traveling buddy, Sister Emma Jackson. Mother Ousborn was proud of her "mustard seeds" and Mediterranean Sea water that she brought back from the Holy Land. She was especially proud of being baptized in the Jordan River.

Anyone who knew Mother Ousborn knew her to be a true Praise and Worshipper and a powerful Prayer Warrior. Her fervent prayers helped many people. She participated on a phone prayer line with many of her friends where they would pray almost every morning. Members of Mother Ousborn's church and the community would come to her for prayer when they faced surgery, illnesses, or other crisis in their lives. In recognition of her dedicated life of prayer, Pastor Bernstine announced that a room of the church will be named the "Thelma Ousborn Prayer Room" in her honor.

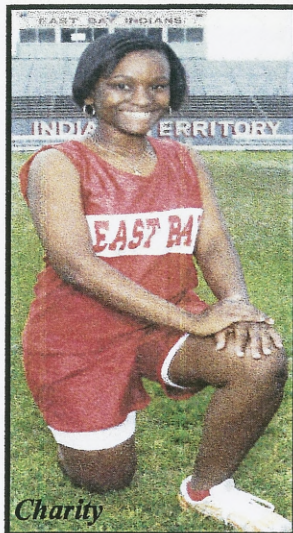
Mother Ousborn's mottos were *"if I can help somebody as I travel along, then my living will not be in vain"* and *"touch somebody's life with your goodness"*. She would often say, *"I would rather be hurt than to hurt somebody else"*.

Mother Ousborn was still able to minister to us during her illness. Whenever she greeted you, it was with a big smile or warm hug. Even after she moved to the Vale Care Center, you would always find her smiling and laughing. She had a real good sense of humor. Mother Ousborn was a sweetheart, a very kind woman. She may be gone from our presence, but her kind, sweet spirit will live on in the hearts and minds of those that knew and loved her.

After a long illness of Alzheimers, she received the victory when the Lord finally called her home to be with Him on September 26, 2009.

She was preceded in death by her mother, father, stepmother, husband, two brothers; her sons, Thomas Berry and Herman Ousborn, Jr. and one grandson, Kevin Smith.

She leaves to cherish precious memories, a son, Ray Ousborn of Fairfield, CA, daughters, Vernadine Randle, Mary Woolfolk (William), Gloria Ousborn, Francine Johnson (Hugh), Denise Ousborn, all of Richmond, CA. Nancy Legardy (Gregory) of Rodeo, CA. Two daughter-in-laws, Gwendolyn Ousborn of Richmond, CA and Rebecca Berry of Yazoo, MS; 17 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, one brother Eddie Berry of Jackson, MS, adopted sister, Traverlee Hamilton of Richmond, CA. She also leaves extended daughters Rita Smith, Phyllis Johnson, Demetriss Davis and Pam Reynolds and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and her Bethlehem church family.



Charity



Ann, Rebecca, Taye, Janette, Denise, & Francine



Ray & Domonique



Jakari, John & Athena



Kellie



Silas



Kourtney



Seles



Leonard, Domonique, Kerry

Granny's Love

Granny, words could never express the way I felt when I got the news that you had gone on.

You lead by example, so I'm trying to stay strong.

Growing up and often living with you and PaPa, You protected me from things I didn't quite understand. I know now that you were teaching me to be a man. I remember when I would hide my church shoes to stay home or at least that was the plan.

But you'd make away for you knew God's Plan.

I'm left with many memories of your cooking, Your words of wisdom and most important your love, and from this day on I'm assured that you're looking Over me from above.

I love you, Granny.

Your Grandson, Jeremiah



Tribute to My Best Friend

She walked in paths that would be good, not only for her children, but for others who might go that way.

She was a delight to her friends, a joy to her family and a source of good will to the stranger.

She lived as she died, serene and beautiful. With the spirit of life gone on, the spirit of the way of life shall ever remain to keep us guarded, to give us hope.

To be able to smile in the storm to be watchful and careful and constant in prayer, to be cautious to do no one harm to be useful and wanted, to live everyday that whenever the bell tolls for you you'll be happy to say, though my end is at hand I've done all the good I could do.

This is the life of our friend who has gone.
May those behind catch the light of her light.

Emma Jackson

My Mom's Journey

So often I would hear my mother say "My steps are ordered towards a destination that has been waiting for me a long time. A table of festive fruits has been prepared for me. So I must be about my Father's business."

If her eyes could talk I am sure they would say, "To my love ones, my children, grandchildren to the fifth and sixth generations, and friends, I say to you, you may feel sad, you may even shed a tear or two; but rejoice in my home going because it has been a long time coming. I fought a good fight. I never wandered from my faith. You see this is a road less traveled. For along this road I have eaten of bread you know not of. I am full. It is time to rest. Jesus extends his Hands and I do gladly accept.

As I listen closer, I can hear my mom say, "seek the kingdom of God first and all His goodness and mercy be with you. Remember all the things that I have taught you. One last thing I leave with you - the power of prayer! Until we meet again."

Gloria Cusborn

Together Again



Thomas

Herman, Jr.



Thomas

Herman, Jr.



Kevin

Aunt Gladys



Active Pallbearers

**Thomas Berry, Jr.
Rashad Ousborn**

**Leonard Ousborn
Bill Horton**

**Henry C. Graham
Kevin Wills**

Honorary Pallbearers

Grandsons & Great Grandsons

**Deacons of Bethlehem
Charles Wilford**

**Brother Lacy Tibbs
Arnett Spears**

**Warren Robair
John Williams**

Acknowledgments

The Ousborn Family would like to thank each and everyone of our family and friends who provided comfort and support during our time of need. We appreciate your many acts of love that you have rendered so freely.

*Thank you for your prayers, visits, calls, cards and flowers.
Your kindness will always be remembered.*

*We would like to extend a special thanks to our Bethlehem Church family,
to Dr. Brazille Carter, and to the staff at the Vale Care Center.*

A very,very special thanks to our loving sister, Mary Woolfolk for her unselfish love and never-ending commitment and care of Mother.

The Ousborn Family

Funeral arrangements entrusted to

**Rose Manor Funeral Services
331 MacDonald Avenue, Richmond, CA 94804**

**Rolling Hills Memorial Park
4100 Hilltop Drive, Richmond, CA 94803**

Repast immediately following Interment at the Bethlehem Social Hall